

CL E1  
B1 D1  
end

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if  
said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and  
operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote  
device has a higher priority than said local device.

B2

sub  
E1

2. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing  
configuration services comprises:  
automatically determining a first network address;  
automatically assigning a second network address;  
automatically assigning a network name;  
automatically correlating said first network address, said second network address,  
and said network name; and  
recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network address  
and said correlated network name in a table.

sub  
E1

6. (Amended) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said network name is  
suggested by said local device.

B3

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E1

7. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined  
period of time is varied so as to prevent race conditions.

B4

sub  
E1

12. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:  
automatically assigning an address to a local device on said network;

automatically assigning a network name to said local device;  
automatically supplying user and group information across said network; and  
automatically determining service capability of said local device including  
whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more  
remote devices of said network;  
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if  
configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than  
said local device; and  
operating as a client device to a remote device if said remote device has a higher  
priority than said local device.

13. (Amended) The method defined in claim 12, wherein supplying user and  
group information comprises:  
detecting when said local device is connected to said network;  
sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local  
device connecting to said network;  
said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and  
group list resident on said local device; and  
said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second  
user and group list is more recent;  
receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device;  
updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and  
group list; and

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propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network.

B6 sub 18. (Amended) The method defined claim 12, wherein said network name is suggested by said local device.

E1 ~~B6~~ sub 21. (Amended) A network comprising:  
a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to automatically  
request a first network address;  
receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said network;  
provide a network configuration if said first network address is not received from said second device;  
determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device;  
provide said network configuration if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and  
operate as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

B8 E1 sub 26. (Amended) A network comprising:  
a first device configured to  
assign an address to a second device on said network;